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MEMORANDUM

TO: Section Centers. Hydroclimatic Inspectors. Field Aides.
WRPCs River District Offices and Area Engineers
(With copies to Regional Offices for information.)

FROM: Climatological Services Division

SUBJECT: Climatological Service Memorandum No. 30

INSTRUCTIONS

1. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FOR COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS: Within the next few months Christmas cards will be printed and sent to Regional Offices for further distribution. Supervising offices should request their supplies from the Regional Offices. The cards should be signed by the Meteorologist in Charge of the supervising office before being sent to the observers.

A supply for use at marine centers will be sent directly to those centers from the Central Office. A supply for Honolulu and San Juan will also be sent directly to those two Section Centers.

The following table shows the number of cards sent to each Regional Office and to Honolulu and San Juan last year. We plan to send the same number this year unless we are advised by the offices concerned to change the number

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------|
| Regional Office. | New York. | New York | 3000 |
| " | " | Fort Worth. Texas | 4000 |
| " | " | Kansas City. Missouri | 4000 |
| " | " | Salt Lake City. Utah | 3000 |
| " | " | Anchorage. Alaska | 150 |
| Weather Bureau Airport Station | Honolulu. | T.H. | 140 |
| " | " | " | " |
| | | San Juan. Puerto Rico | 400 |

2. SUBSTATION OBSERVERS ARE FEE EMPLOYEES: All Substation Inspectors and others who may have occasion to look for or select substation observers should be familiar with the provisions of Circular Letter No. 23-52. It should be noted that retired Federal employees or employees of government agencies other than the Department of Commerce may be employed as substation observers without violating the dual compensation regulation.
3. MACHINE COPY OF SPECIAL SUMMARIES: Since the inauguration of the publication, Local Climatological Data - Supplement, (formerly W.B. Form 1001c Supplement) WRPCs have prepared machine summaries of similar data for all stations operating throughout the 24 hours. Each month one machine copy for each station which does not publish the data has been sent to the Section Center for reference and file.

A need for a file of these summaries has developed at the NWRC Asheville, North Carolina. Since no extra copies are available, it is requested that Section Centers survey their requirements for this file. If it is found that the need for these summaries is not too great at Section Centers, it is requested that the file be forwarded to Asheville. Occasional requirements for these data can be referred by Section Centers to Asheville after the file has been shipped there. If your survey of the need for these summaries indicates that you cannot dispense with them, please advise the Central Office of this fact.

4. SUBSTATION INSPECTION REPORTS: Present routing instructions for substation inspection reports, W.B. Form 530-2, formerly 6055; (Attachment 1 to Circular Letter 8 50) specify that a copy should be routed to each Weather Bureau office concerned with the report.

Reports of incorrect procedures, or faulty results from instruments, are of special assistance to the WRPC in processing records.

This item is to remind inspectors of the importance of furnishing the WRPC with copies of inspection reports that involve corrections or changes in substation records. Inspection reports that do not affect the WRPC should not be routed to the Processing Centers.

5. LETTERS FROM THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS WHO ATTAIN 40 YEARS OF SERVICE: (REFERENCE - C.S.M. NO. 27. ITEM 1) Since the referenced item was issued twenty letters have gone from the Secretary to observers who have completed 40 years of service.

Section Centers are reminded to furnish us the necessary information to prepare these letters about a month before their observers reach the 40-year mark.

6. RECORDS OF LAKE AND RESERVOIR WATER TEMPERATURES: Records of water temperature in lakes and reservoirs located at evaporation station sites are being entered on Forms 1024 in several instances where such information is available. This information is being used by the Hydrologic Services Division at present in studies aimed at determining evaporation from lakes and reservoirs.

It is believed that there may be additional water temperature records available and an attempt should be made to obtain them if possible. Records for lakes or reservoirs, whether or not they are located in the vicinity of an evaporation station, would be of value. In general, the water temperature at or near the surface would be of greater value in determinations of evaporation. However, whether or not surface temperatures are available, temperatures at various depths would be of value.

It is suggested that the Section Directors assemble such information as they can on the availability of such records and report the same to the Central Office. The records, if they can be made available to the Bureau, should be filed at the Section Center, unless advised otherwise.

7. SELECTION OF RIVER OBSERVERS - COOPERATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES: The Hydrologic Services Division has asked us to bring the following comments to the attention of Section Directors and Hydroclimatic Inspectors, as well as River District Officials:

The Weather Bureau enjoys extensive cooperation with other Federal Agencies such as the Geological Survey, Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation, in the collection of hydrologic data and reports. Where practicable, the several agencies concerned use the same river gage and, in some cases, the same observer may serve two or more agencies. In appointing an observer who is already employed by one of the other agencies, or otherwise under instruction by that agency to provide service gratis, approval must be obtained from the agency or agencies concerned before appointment of the observer is completed. The Weather Bureau in turn expects other agencies to obtain our approval before soliciting the Bureau's sub-station observers.

GENERAL

8. LETTERS FROM COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS: (REFERENCE - ITEM 13, C.S.M. NO. 3) Section Centers are reminded that interesting and unusual letters received from cooperative observers help to keep us in touch with the observers. Any such letters should be marked

for Field Services Section of Climatological Services Division and should contain a note similar to the following on the face of the letter (if appropriate).

For information only. return to _____.

It's practically impossible to define what should be looked for under the head of "interesting and unusual" as used above; but here's an example from the mountain country of western Nevada:

"This will be the last report from Marlette Lake which I will send in, and I rather regret that it is so. Through the five years of my stay here, especially during the long winters, I have been building a boat; a sea-going yacht, no less. Now it is complete, and we are on the way to tidewater via Sacramento. Last week a "Cat" growled its way in here to snake the hull out on a sled. Today a huge flatbed is at Spooner's Junction to haul it over the highway. It was quite a spectacle to see a thirty five foot ketch gliding through these woods.

"But now it is finished. Mountaintop Marine Works is empty, and we are leaving this lovely land of Marlette. We are glad that we have been of some small service to you, and perhaps one day we may serve again, this time with data from the Tuamotus.

So long--

Sincerely,

Jack Ferguson"

The following is quoted from the letter of transmittal accompanying Mr. Ferguson's letter:

"To appreciate his achievement and his plans, one must remember that this station is located at an elevation of about 8,000 feet in the mountains some 7 or 8 miles west of Carson City in the Lake Tahoe area. Marlette Lake itself is a very small lake located in a rather densely wooded area. On the way into the station the last few miles of road from Spooner's Junction are unimproved and rather rough -- hence, the necessity for dragging the hull out on a sled with a caterpillar.

"As you know, the Tuamotu Islands are located about 3,600 miles SSW of San Francisco."

9. INTERPOLATION OF PRECIPITATION RECORDS: Circular Letter 28-52, dated July 24, 1952, outlining the Weather Bureau's policy on the above subject, has been distributed to all Section Centers. If any Center has not received this circular, request for a copy should be made to this Division.
10. SERVICE RECORD CARDS OF COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS: The Section Center at Salt Lake City has adapted a principle of the "key-sort" method to a system for filing cooperative observers' record cards, W.B. Form 4067. This index system is designed to simplify the withdrawal of the cards of observers to be given recognition in any year. Also through the use of colored identification tabs it is apparent to which length-of-service group an observer belongs.

An appropriately colored identification tab is placed in one of ten equally-spaced positions along the top edge of the card to coincide with the year in the decade when recognition will be due. The round hole in the tab is a "key-sort" feature which facilitates sorting the cards. By inserting a "key" or slender metal rod through all the cards in the file that have a tab located in the same position, one may lift them from the file drawer with one motion.

The cards are brought up to date every five years by tabbing only those cards showing five or more years of record.

Any Section Center interested in this method of maintaining service record cards may write to the Salt Lake City office for sample cards.

11. PORTRAYAL OF A COOPERATIVE OBSERVER IN STEVE CANYON COMIC STRIP: During May, June, and July 1952 the comic strip "Steve Canyon", artist Milton Caniff portrayed in the Washington Post and other papers a cooperative weather observer, Mr. Neil, as one of the characters. In appreciation, the Climatological Services Division wrote to Mr. Caniff as follows:

Dear Mr. Caniff:

In the U. S. Weather Bureau we have an operating unit called the Climatological Services Division whose business it is to direct the work of the several thousand cooperative weather observers who serve their communities and the Nation in the large and important job given to us in 1891 by Congress - to "establish and record climatic conditions in the United States." Accordingly, we have followed the recent experiences

of your Mr. Neil of Reynard Island with a special interest, and it is a pleasure to extend to you our thanks for the story and our very sincere congratulations for the artistry with which you have understood and portrayed the outstanding qualities, common to practically all of these excellent citizens, of loyalty and devotion to their job and Government.

With the idea that you might find some interest in it. I am sending you herewith a copy of a recent bulletin "The Cooperative Weather Observer," giving biographical sketches of our long-service observers, and published to give recognition and a bit of credit to this remarkable corps of volunteers. This is one of several attempts we have made to bring about a well-justified public appreciation for them and their splendid contribution; so that the motive of our efforts to that end is by no means the least of our reasons for feeling grateful to you.

Mr. Caniff replied on July 17 as follows:

Thank you very much for your cordial letter of 10 July concerning the recent activities of my weather observer, Mr. Neil of Reynard Island in STEVE CANYON.

I am very happy to hear that you and your associates in the Weather Bureau have been enjoying this sequence and it certainly was added pleasure to learn of your interest in my work. I am very glad, too, to have the copy of the "The Cooperative Weather Observer", which you thoughtfully enclosed.

I hope that STEVE and his friends will continue to warrant your valued attention.

Cordially.

OF INTEREST TO WRPCs

12. PRINTING OF LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA ANNUALS: The 1952 Local Climatological Data annuals for stations in the San Francisco Weather Records Processing Center area should again be printed at the Chattanooga and Kansas City Weather Records Processing Centers. Details of printing and mailing should be worked out by the Weather Records Processing Centers.

W. F. McDonald
for
W. F. McDonald
Chief, Climatological
Services Division

GUIDE TO CLIMATOLOGICAL SERVICE MEMORANDUM NO. 30

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